



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

***Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses***

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## ***Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses***

**Sacramento, CA** – “Small, non-farm businesses in the counties of **Hawaii, Honolulu, Kauai, Maui and Kalawao** are eligible to apply for low interest disaster loans to offset economic losses because of reduced revenue to farmers and ranchers caused by drought conditions, which occurred January 1 through December 31, 2003,” announced Alfred E. Judd, Disaster Area Director of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

“Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only, and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 3.324%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship,” Judd said.

Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses, which could have been met had the disaster not occurred.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Ann M. Veneman declared this disaster at the request of Governor Linda Lingle.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are ineligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary’s declaration. However, in drought disasters, nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **November 22, 2004**.

Information and application forms may be obtained by writing to **SBA at P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841-9004** or by calling **(800) 488-5323**. Hearing impaired individuals may call (916) 735-1683.

For more information visit SBA’s website at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster).